THE
BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Vol. XLII. Wednesday, May 22, 1850. No. 16.

REMARKS ON THE PATHOLOGY AND TREATMENT OF DYSPEPSIA, AS IT EXISTS AMONG SHOEMAKERS.

BY JOSEPH PARRISH, M.D., BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY.

Having had an opportunity, for several years past, of observing the character and course of dyspepsia, as it occurs among a large proportion of the population of this city, I have thought it might be interesting to the profession, and perhaps not without profit, to communicate the results of these observations. The city of Burlington, being located on the Delaware river, and of convenient access to the two great cities of the Union, as well as to the surrounding country, by steamboat and railroad travel, offers many advantages as a place of business for the manufacturer, and as a healthy location for residence. It is built upon a plain of rich loamy soil, remarkable for its productive yield of the finest garden fruits and vegetables; the river skirts the northern and western sides of the town, and in the rear, a little distance from the city, is an elevated ridge of land, not surpassed by any section of the State for its salubrity, and the general health of its inhabitants. The Assiskunk creek forms the eastern boundary, and though skirted along its banks with meadows, which extend across to the river on the west, is quite healthy for a low situation. The general health of the city is good, and I know of nothing in its topography that is calculated to engender gastric disease, while this class of disorders would probably form the maximum if arranged in statistical order. Its presence is, I have no doubt, partly attributable to the habits and pursuits of the people among whom it is mostly to be found, just as scurvy is almost peculiar to seafaring people. Hundreds of young men and apprentices may be found, particularly in the winter season, from 6 o'clock in the morning till 10 at night, upon the bench, taking only a few minutes at a time for their meals. Out of the twenty-four hours, not more than one is usually devoted to meals, and about seven for rest; so that nearly two thirds of their entire time, during the six working days of the week, is spent in the stooping posture, in small and hot apartments, plentifully fumigated with tobacco smoke, or the vapor arising from burning quids upon a red-hot stove. A few are in the habit of using intoxicating liquors to excess, though I am free to testify that very many, on the other hand, are our most consistent advocates, by word and deed, of temperance principles. From the brief outline thus drawn of the habits of life of shoemakers in Burlington, it is easily seen that they invite the enemy to human health to dwell in their midst. The stooping posture, the want of exercise, the hurried eating, the confined atmosphere of their apartments, the smoking or chewing of tobacco—all contribute to lessen the vital energies, and to engender disease. That the stomach should be the first organ to suffer is easily accounted for; not only in the food taken in haste, without sufficient mastication, and thus an unnatural demand made upon its powers, but it is often unsuited in quality to the wants of the system; the constantly-stooping position compresses the organ, interferes with its normal action, interrupts the gastric circulation, and impedes somewhat the salutary movements of the lungs; the want of exercise, and of fresh air, produces a languid circulation, tends to local congestion, gives rise to a sense of fulness, and produces constipation of the bowels, while the use of tobacco is in every way injurious.

The free use of tea and coffee may also be mentioned as a cause which contributes to disorder the digestive apparatus. It is a well-known physiological fact that these articles do not supply, in any appreciable quantity, the organizable material, which is necessary to the formation of healthy blood; hence the proper degree of animal heat cannot be maintained, and the vital forces must sink below par. Coffee is mostly taken for breakfast, and tea for dinner and the evening meal; and though they may have a tendency to exhilarate the nervous system, and to enliven the spirits, their real value will not admit of even a moderate estimate. It becomes us, then, first to inquire what are the pathological changes which take place under such a mode of life; and secondly, how can they be remedied. A patient who has pursued such a course of living presents himself for treatment. He is not sick enough to stop his work, and yet is not well. He rises in the morning feeling dull and inactive. After breakfast he complains of pain in the stomach, sometimes in the side, it may be the right or left; his skin is dry, often cool, and pulse generally feeble; his tongue is slightly coated at its base, with an unhealthy odor of the breath; not unfrequently the appetite is unusually good; oftener, however, it is quite moderate, and but seldom is the food rejected. The stomach seems to demand the stimulus of food, although the natural taste and appetite for it may be impaired. Constipation and flatulency are generally attendant symptoms also—palpitation of the heart, headache, a slight cough and sore throat are also sometimes complained of. The stomach being oppressed by excess of indigestible or innutritious food, the circulation being languid in consequence of position, and want of exercise, the pathological condition would seem to be, that of congestion of the gastric vessels, and loss of nervous power in the organ.

The first object to be gained, is to cleanse the stomach and bowels; for this purpose I have generally employed a full dose of magnesia and rhubarb, preceded by a blue pill, if it should be indicated; the former neutralizing the acid secretions which generally exist in the alimentary canal, and the rhubarb acting upon the muscular fibres so as to produce copious feculent dejections. Abstinence from tea and coffee, and from all fried food, whether animal or vegetable, with boiled or roasted meat for dinner, and bran bread, with milk, or milk and water for breakfast and supper. This system of diet, with daily exercise in the open air, as walking two or three miles daily, will generally so modify the action of the vital forces, as to bring about a condition in which the system will more readily respond to the subsequent treatment. In the majority of cases, the constipation of the bowels is the most obstinate symptom to overcome, as the occupation of the patient is so habitually sedentary—but I have found, as a gentle daily evacuant, pills made according to the following prescription to act kindly upon the bowels :—R. Ext. Colocynth. comp., grs. xxiv. ; ol. tiglii, gtts. iij. Ft. pilul. duodecem. Signa. Take two every morning.

After a while the pills may be discontinued, leaving the bowels so accustomed to a regular daily movement, that the necessity for cathartic medicine is removed, provided the patient is careful to put himself in the position and place for an evacuation at stated intervals. The use of nervous stimulants and tonics, where there is considerable debility of the digestive organs, is very important to facilitate recovery. I have never found anything so effectual as quinine, assafœtida and capsicum, combined or separately as may be indicated in particular cases. A common and favorite prescription is as follows :—R. Quin. sulph., g. assafœtida, capsicum, āā gr. xii. Ft. pil. no. xij. Signa. One or two after each meal. Piperine may be substituted for capsicum if preferred. The flatulency is generally relieved by the assafœtida and capsicum, a gentle stimulant impression being at the same time made, while the tonic effect of the quinine upon the languid vessels serves to keep up their action. The condition of the skin is such, in most cases, as to require attention. It is alternately dry and moist—dry during the day, perhaps, and covered with acid perspiration at night. Daily ablutions are therefore enjoined, and frictions with a salted towel. The addition of an alkaline salt, as common washing soda, to the water, has a delightful effect upon the skin ; it renders it soft and pliable, and frees it from the peculiar acid secretion. I have frequently had patients to recover entirely after a fair trial of this mode of treatment, who have supposed themselves wasting with consumption. Indeed the symptoms of phthisis are often very closely imitated—the pale and shrunken visage, the attenuated frame, harassing cough, and fugitive pains about the chest, resemble the common signs of pulmonary disease. A gentleman, who has been a shoemaker from early life, called on me a few years since, and told me that he was suffering from a disease of the throat, which had been pronounced bronchitis by several skilful physicians, and though he had tried almost every known remedy for the disease, he was still left with a distressing cough, and offensive expectoration, with a sense of soreness in the throat, which indicated to his mind that he had not long to live. One physician of Philadelphia had told him that, to be cured, he must confine himself to a room of equal temperature, and not speak for several weeks, during which time he would make such applications, and administer such medicines, as in his judgment would be useful. The patient could not leave his business to comply with these regulations, and for awhile abandoned all treatment. In his capacity as a local preacher and class leader, of a numerous religious denomination among us, the muscles of his throat had been overstrained by extra use; he worked at his trade during the day, and several evenings in the week was engaged in public religious exercises. He was advised to abandon these for a season, and give up the use of tea, coffee and tobacco. Slight counter-irritation was applied to the epigastrium, and under the use of the following prescription, with bathing and exercise, recovered completely in less than two months: R.—G. assafœtida, grs. xxiv.; pulv. capsicum, grs. xij. Ft. pil. no. xij. Sig. Take two after each meal.

Years of his life, and considerable money, had been spent in fruitless efforts with active medication, advised by physicians and quacks, to overcome a malady the cure of which was within his own control, under a few simple instructions. He now attends to his business with industry, labors in the pulpit and class room as zealously as ever, and withal enjoys good health.

I have thus attempted to describe the symptoms of dyspepsia, as they have been observed by myself, among the shoemakers of Burlington; and though I have not kept regular notes of many cases, I am quite certain that the treatment pursued has resulted in the improvement and recovery of a large number of persons.—*New Jersey Medical Reporter.*

THE FALLIBILITIES OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE IN MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.—NO. II.

BY A. C. CASTLE, M.D., NEW YORK.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Hamlet.—Do you see yonder cloud that's almost in the shape of a camel?
Polonius.—By the mass, and 'tis like a camel indeed.
Hamlet.—Methinks it is like a weasel.
Polonius.—It is backed like a weasel.
Hamlet.—Or like a whale.
Polonius.—Very like a whale.

If we would arrive at the knowledge of those truths of natural phenomena, governing, compromising, or destroying the harmonious action of the several systems comprising the animal anatomy, as represented by the noble outline of the most perfect organization of the creation, in aspect and physical beauty of man, or the knowledge of that which interests us, at present, more nearly, the chemical influences of external agents or poisons in connection with the animal laboratory and animal chemistry, we must not—because we have in addition, volition, mobility and locomotion, and the consequent laboratory comprised in the alimentary canal contra-distinguished from other grades of vital organization—suppose the individual to be a self-acting agent complete and perfect in himself. In the words of Byron—

> "Are not the mountains, waves and skies a part
> Of me, and of my soul as I of them?"

No—we must look far beyond this, if we would free ourselves from the fetters and the thraldom of usage, which as an incubus encumbers and embarrasses truth, facts, and even experience, with theoretical precedents, adopted axioms, and doubtful experiments. To overcome these, and all those prejudices which here claim their paternity, it is necessary that we make ourselves cognizant of, and conversant with, the early history, the elementary notions, and the empirical treatment of diseases by the ancients, from the period when man in his primeval simplicity was free from pain and sickness, to the time of Æsculapius the founder of medicine as an art, and through the periods of the various revolutions in medicine since. Little wonder will then be excited at the continued chaotic condition of the medical *ics*, *isms* and *pathies* of modern times, so in unison with those of our illustrious predecessors, and still less wonder would exist at the "incongruities and fallibilities of scientific evidence in medical jurisprudence." A familiarity with the early history of medical science, alone, can give to the mind that knowledge which is so requisite to form a correct judgment and proper deductions, as well as affording the means for comparison, without which everything would again have to be tested, speculated or experimented upon, or created anew, to reach, after many cycles of misdirected mental toil, the perfection so painfully and diligently searched for.

Of all the arts and sciences, from the first manufacture of aprons from fig leaves down to "learning French without a master," not one has exercised a more prominent influence, than that portion of philosophy which has its bearing upon the health, safety and happiness of the human family, collectively and individually. To those zealously and conscientiously engaged in the pursuit of medical scientific knowledge, the study necessary and the research required are so vast and comprehensive, so intricate and difficult, that no one can be said to have investigated and mastered, even the elementary principles of the art, who has neglected to make himself acquainted with its incipient introduction in times long since passed away. Anything short of the most entire ignorance of the past could not for a moment permit the self-complacent, egotistical medical "Sir Oracle" to sit in his office arm-chair, swelling with instinctive self-laudation, mentally thanking "Goodness" and the living generation, that science and art have perpetrated something in *his* day, and if they have condescended to such trifles as the electric telegraph and ocean steam navigation, what are these in comparison to the accomplishments and powers of the all-wonderful microscope! and its illustrations of oval cells, compound granular cells, nucleoli, epithelium scales, &c. &c., and last, but not least, its capability of detecting organized blood from tobacco juice! *desunt cætara.* I do not wish to be understood as denying the *usefulness* of the microscope; I dispute its *infallibility* only. We will look back to the art of medicine as it was in the time of Æsculapius, who described from observation only the various disorders then known as incident to the human body, and applied to each affection such medicines as his wonderful powers of observation and experience had taught him to be most beneficial.

The art as taught by Æsculapius existed over four hundred years. The first year of the eightieth Olympiad gave birth to Hippocrates, who in his turn effected a great revolution in medical science. He was the eighteenth lineal descendant from Æsculapius. He studied under Herodicus, the inventor of gymnastic medicine. He was the author of nemerous valuable works on "Air, Water and Situation," "Epidemics," "Prognostics," "Wounds of the Head," Diet, &c. &c. He originated the opinion of the principle or power which he denominated "Nature." He considered that there existed in the system four humors, "blood, yellow and black bile, and phlegm." He to a very great extent exploded the numerous false theories, applied to medicine by his predecessors. His system of medicine existed as authority for a period of two thousand years.

About the period when the school of Alexandria first rose into estimation, a remarkable schism took place in medicine, by the use of two sects —the "*Dogmatists*" or "Rationalists," and the "Empirics." The rationalists maintained the necessity of the knowledge of anatomical structure and physiology of the human body, a knowledge of botany, and the *modus operandi* of medicines in removing or counteracting disease. The empirics, on the contrary, very fitly and aptly with their scientific attainments, asserted that observation of disease alone was all that was necessary, and they, in accordance with these notions, maintained that the knowledge required by the dogmatists was unattainable under the most favorable circumstances, as it was impossible to acquire an insight into the operations of the animal body. The rationalists were charged with sophistry and hypothesis, arising out of the mystical doctrines, introduced by them, of the Platonic philosophy to medicine. In this way arose a multitude of sects (which would not have been a discredit to the 19th century), who contributed little or nothing to the advancement of medicine, but who, on the contrary, were daily leading or rather misleading their followers from the right path of research.

One hundred years before the christian era, Asclepiades, failing as a teacher of rhetoric in Rome, turned (as many other failures have done since) physician. He, of course, was a reformer; and styled the system of Hippocrates, "A meditation on death." He accordingly took for his basis of action, the philosophy of Epicurus and Heraclides of Pontus. He attempted to explain all the functions of the body and all the remote and exciting causes of health and disease, by means of *corpuscles* of the *blood and fluids*, and obstructed pores. All this, be it remembered, *without* the aid of the microscope, anatomy in his opinion being useless. He flattered the caprices of his patients, and soothed their complaints with his blandishments; although Celsus observes, that in fevers and pleurisies, he often starved them for days. The place of Asclepiades, after his death, was filled by Thermiston, a native of Laodicea, who became the founder of a new sect called "*methodists*."* The basis of his principles existed in two morbid conditions of the animal system, contrary to each other—a state of constriction and a state of relaxation; and a third state, combining and compounded of the two, which he called the mixed state. The remedies adopted were astringents and relaxants. In the second century of the christian era, appeared the great Galenus, a man of extraordinary genius. He selected what appeared to be the most rational from the several modes of practice of the different sects, rejecting, however, the Epicurean system altogether. His opinions and system held dominion over the minds of his successors for a period of sixteen hundred years. It is needless to dive into the notions and principles of such of the ancients as Erasistratus, Diocles, Praxagoras, Aristotle, Apollonius, Sextino Niger, Ætius, &c. &c. Nor is it necessary to contemplate here the great names of modern genius —such as Botellus, Sydenham, Harvey, Armstrong, Cullen, Bancroft, Rush, and a host of others. Notwithstanding the benefits arising out of the discovery of the circulation of the blood by Harvey, which caused another revolution in medicine, this new light served only to redouble the rage of systems, theories and sects. There were "blood-doctors" to cause the blood to circulate more freely, to destroy its viscosity !—to draw off from the body the corrupted blood—to purify it, to renew it, as well as the wretched mania for the transfusion of blood, which always ended in insanity and death. Thus, one of the greatest discoveries ever made, so far from elucidating a great problem, as there was every reason to expect, had no other effect than misleading weak imaginations who were overwhelmed and dazzled by its splendor. When the circulation of the blood was, in a measure, understood, and a knowledge of the gaseous poisons, and atmospheric impurities and their effects upon the health, and upon animal vitality, incipiently comprehended, municipal sanatory laws were partially introduced, and *chemical physicians* made their appearance ; with what results we must, by way of illustration, leave to the modern "empirics" to answer the question—who deal in solvents for lithiatic concretions in the bladder.

---

* The numerous and respectable religious society of *methodists* received their name from this sect of physicians, in consequence of the zeal, piety and uniform conduct of their founder, Mr. Wesley, and a few of his colleagues, who, while students in Oxford College, in derision were denominated methodists.

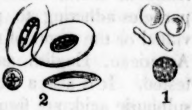
I have endeavored, somewhat vaguely I fear, to show that if the ancients were not "behind their times," we are not behind them in any particular in our modern schools of dogmatists, rationalists and empirics, under the various terminations of *ics*, *isms* and *pathies*."

> "Connection exquisite of distant (times)
> Distinguished link in being's endless chain,
> Midway from nothing to "———

By this imperfect "bird's-eye view" of the past, my desire has been to exhibit to the zealous student, the incongruities and the crooked paths of the steep ascent (overhung as it is with topling rocks of prejudice, ready to fall and crush him) to the temple of medical truth and medical fame : from the moment when he leaves the comparatively easy and fascinating paths of the beautiful and gradually expansive delights of mental vistas, contained in the grand comprehensiveness of introductory sciences ; and then struggles manfully on through mental labor, mortification and disappointment, into the thickest of the practical department, and finally, after years of labor and anxieties and futile attempts to thread the thrice entangled labyrinth, is at length compelled to reach the goal of his ambition by some short cut, to avail himself of some *outre* eccentricity, or in other words empirical routine. The knowledge, in a great measure, heretofore imparted by our Gamaliels has been of that abstract, metaphysical nature, partaking of the closet speculation, with too much book description mystified and cramped, as is too often the case, by a vague Procrustean phraseology, which to the student is rendered still more obscure, from the lack, or entire absence in many cases, of a preparatory education for such a responsible and difficult undertaking.

Returning to the incongruities and fallibilities of scientific evidence in medical jurisprudence—or "accuracy of scientific evidence," if you please. I do not agree with "A Medical Witness" (see Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, 17th inst.), and the "large number of brewers," who think that *rum* made from West India molasses is cheaper and more intoxicating than the "valuable" drugs with which beer in many instances is poisoned. I would inform "A Medical Witness," and the "numerous brewers," that *New-England rum* is cheaper still, if the drinker's object is to induce intoxication, which is not the case on beer! I admit that the blood is "a regular organism." Such I read to be the fact when an urchin reading my Bible, and "scientific evidence" has proved nothing to corroborate that impression made upon my mind; but I do without hesitation deny the powers of the microscope to distinguish one blood from another. According to Leuwenhœk, "a thousand millions of blood globules are not larger than one grain of sand"! Haller, who *never* could see globules in *warm-blooded* animals, says that, in cold-blooded animals the globule is 1-3000 of an inch; Jurin says, 1-3240; and Leuwenhœk, experiments "*revised*," 1-1940; Young, 1-1660; Wollaston, 1-5000; Bawer, 1-1700; Kater, 1-4000. Pretty evidence, truly, to hang a man. But let us proceed. Some authors say that the globules are of the same size in all animals. Other authors, *on the contrary*, say that each animal has its own peculiar form. Some say that they are oval in shape; others, round; and others, again, spherical, solid and flattened, or hollow with a hole in the centre; and many assert that a globule is a "bladder"! which contains a certain number of small globules. And to complete these incongruities of scientific evidence, Magendie asserts that he never could discover anything but "*coloring matter*" in the blood, partaking of *all* the various shapes and forms described above, of the different authors, according as the coloring matter of the blood was placed within the exact focus of the microscope or not. I doubt much that "A Medical Witness" would be willing to compromise his well-earned chemical reputation upon such a test, unless he was *first* made aware of the "nature of the beast" yielding the blood. Dr. Goodfellow records a case in which a large number of animalcules were found in the blood of a fever patient, from 1-5000 to 1-3000 in length, and 1-40,000 to 1-20,000 of an inch in diameter. Gruby and Delafond describe animalcules as being frequent in the blood of dogs; and Mayer in his "Dissertatio de Organo Electro et de Hematozois," Bonn, 1843 enumerates the following animalculæ as occurring in the blood. "Paramœceum loricatum seu costatum, in frogs; and second, Amæba rotatoria in fishes." Dr. J. Stuart Wilkinson, M.R.C.S., an eminent microscopist, says the study of the microscope is difficult. At first "an air-bubble is a corpusclé *with walls and contents*." "A small fibre from a cambric handkerchief which has cleaned the glass, appears in the field as a new fibrous tissue," &c. And, he continues, that a little reflection must make it *evident*, that "chemical modes of investigation, however excellent, are by no means applicable in all cases, nor yet are tests available in all instances."

No. 1, human blood. No. 2, frog's blood, magnified five hundred diameters, according to Jurin. Berzelius's researches yield the following results in regard to the constituents of the blood, and Enderlin gives the constituents of the saliva.



	BLOOD.	SALIVA.
Tribaric phosphate of soda	22.101	28.122
Chlorides sodium and potassium	59.185	61.930
Sulphate soda	2.461	2.315
Phosphate lime " magnesia Peroxide iron	14.482	5.509
Loss	1.971	2.124

So much, I repeat, for the humbug and superlation of testing human blood. I never (even mentally) questioned the skill and attainments of the witnesses in the case of the trial of the unfortunate Dr. Webster. To those men of science I could have no objection, for I never had heard of them before. I claim it as a right, however, in common with every other individual, whether in the political world or the republic of science, to express my opinions, and to expose those things which, in my mind, may be based on errors, prejudices or scientific theories; and, where a fellow-being's life is jeopardized, common humanity, if not the higher feeling, duty, demands it. Abernethy says, "Whenever the opinions on subjects of importance, which an attention to cases had impressed upon my mind, differed from those which seemed to prevail amongst other practitioners, I published the facts and the inferences which I drew from them, because I thought that the former, at least, deserved attention, and that the latter would either be confirmed or confuted by the result of general experience." Such a plan I have adopted in these two papers. I do not deem that medical and chemical science has yet arrived at the point of absolute perfection. I am under the impression that we all can still absorb a few additional crumbs of intellectual *pabulum*. It is neither abuse (in the absence of better argument), nor virulent opposition, that will deter me from expressing my conscientious convictions, founded upon readings and corroborated by experience, as well as the exalted experience of others. Friends may flatter and enemies may defame, but the public at large do justice, because they are far removed from the sphere of personal feeling and influence. It speaks much for the glorious working of our liberal institutions, when the liberty of an integral unit, however humble and wretched an outcast he may have rendered himself to society and to the laws, is jealously watched over by the millions of deep-thinking and properly balanced minds, of this truly wonderful confederacy.

I deny the assertion made by "A Medical Witness," namely, "Most frequently the chemist has no other directions than to search for poisons, without having his attention called to any in particular." The hint has always been taken from bottles, labelled "Poison," and from the remains found in them, either by the odor or from adherent particles, or from particles adhering to paper found in the vicinity of the poisoned individual or the resort of the suspected culprit. *This is a fixed fact.* See American, English and French records of poison cases and poisons tested. It is also a fact that large quantities of muriatic acid, as well as sulphuric acid, are frequently met with in prussic acid, and many of the tests for these are false, or so ambiguous as not to be depended upon; such as the peroxide of iron, which, in nine cases out of ten, is impure itself. On prussic acid, Guy's Hospital Reports say, "That a liquid may have the odor of prussic acid, when chemical tests fail to detect the poison." And the judge, who tried Tawell for the murder of Sarah Hart (England), in his "charge," said, "That the smell of prussic acid was a proof of its presence, but the absence of its odor was no proof of the absence of the poison"! In the recent trial, at Darnstadt, of John Stauff, for the murder of the Countess of Gorlitz, in which Baron Liebig, and others of the most eminent of the German chemists, gave their opinions, the *only* point on which the trial was inefficient, was the scientific evidence: one chemist stating that verdigris was harmless after ebullition, while another stated that the strength of the poison was increased by ebullition. Here is another corroborative of the statement in my former communication, that the more practical part of evidence, otherwise than chemistry, is the most important to sustain prosecutions for murder. Vogel, of München, has shown that the English concentrated sulphuric acid, prepared in leaden chambers, contains large quantities of arsenic, or arsenious acid; a stream of sulphuretted hydrogen gas precipitates sulphur and orpiment.

I have extended this paper far beyond the limits of your valuable pages. I shall show, at a future date, the singular *mixtures* (adulterations) of poisons, and the *impurities* of tests themselves. I repeat, "*Who ever heard of a chemist discovering any other poison than that poison which he was directed to search for?*" I now add, that either the suspected poison was found, or *none at all.*

I am at a loss to account for "A Medical Witness's" irritability, in the matter of Dr. Morton's evidence. Surely he was not guilty of such a heinous offence as to merit being recorded as not being "*universally* (!) regarded." (It is considered honor enough to be *generally regarded* a talented man), because with others he gave, in evidence, his honest convictions and correct experience, in behalf of that justice it was the anxiety of all to award. I would respectfully ask of this anonymous "Medical [Chemical?] Witness" what does he mean by "They [those at a distance] do not help Dr. Webster's case by their lucubrations, but only make it worse"? If this sentence do not excite surprise, it is because the records of Massachusetts show that not more than eight or ten capital punishments have taken place during the last twenty-five years; otherwise, the above sentence would lead the distant reader to suppose that prejudice, not justice; vindictiveness, not mercy; were the characteristics of the State, which only required opposition or contradiction to give them still greater tenacity. If the past history of the character of the American people speak truly, which I opine it does, their instinctive aspirations soar too high in the cause of truth, justice and liberty, to permit them to stoop and pour out "lucubrations." With hearts stimulated by a noble blood, to acts of generosity, and with hands ready and willing to perform, their motto is that of their old Anglo-Saxon origin, "GOD AND MY RIGHT." They were not born, much less educated, to bow to a powdered wig, and they would *scorn* to trample upon an outcast or an unhappy man, who,

> "In the light of a rising sun,
> A few convulsed, sharp pangs, and then
> His race of life is run."

God grant that such lucubrations ever will characterize the American people, even until the unhappy Webster's soul shall have fled into eternity! and thence till time shall be no more.

New York, *April* 26, 1850.

REMOVAL OF SCIRRHOUS TUMOR.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I have recently witnessed the removal of a scirrhous tumor from the right breast of Mrs. C., a lady of some 50 years of age, residing at Quechee village. The tumor involved nearly one half the gland, and was entirely removed by two incisions with a sort of dirk knife with double edge.

The tumor was grasped in the left hand, and the knife thrust through, beneath its inferior portion, upon the surface of the pectoral muscle. The knife was then turned a little outward, and the incision at once carried to the surface. Another incision was then made from above the superior portion of the tumor, and terminating in the first, at the bottom of that incision, entirely severing the diseased portion.

The patient, during the operation, which occupied less than three quarters of a minute, was in a state of etherization, produced by inhaling sulphuric ether and chloroform from a conical sponge. After a few inspirations, considerable distress was manifested by repeated groans and complaint of numbness; but, in less than two minutes, she seemed perfectly unconscious. When the knife passed through the integuments, the patient carried her hand suddenly to the wounded point; this motion was followed for a moment by a sort of *subsultus tendinum*, after which the system was perfectly quiet.

The operation was performed by Dr. Dixi Crosby, Professor of Surgery in Dartmouth College, occupying an unusually short time, and with a loss of blood not exceeding two ounces. By this method of operating, the scalpel was entirely dispensed with, and the flaps of the wound fitted with the most perfect adaptation. Dr. Crosby is evidently becoming one of the most neat and successful operators of the day, and has done much to relieve the sufferings of the unfortunate patient, by abridging the time heretofore required in performing many operations. I. DAVIS.

Norwich, Vt., May 1, 1850.

TREATMENT OF PHTHISIS.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me a small space in your Journal to communicate to your numerous readers that, since January, 1848, I have treated twelve cases of phthisis pulmonalis, in which the acid. sul. aro. of the U. S. Dispensatory, given in from gtt. x. to xxx. once in eight hours, in half a wine-glass of pure water, appeared to arrest the disease, both in the incipient and subsequent stages. Other treatment was adopted in all the cases, but I attribute the cures to the acid, and especially do I think it prevented farther deposition of tuberculous matter. If any member of the profession will give the medicine a fair trial, and report the result, he will much oblige, Yours,

Morris, N. Y., May 8, 1850. SEELY BROWNELL.

NATIONAL MEDICAL CONVENTION, FOR REVISING THE PHARMACOPŒIA OF THE UNITED STATES.

[THE following report of the proceedings of this Convention has been received from the Secretary, and is inserted entire.]

The fourth decennial convention for revising the Pharmacopœia of the United States met at Washington on Monday, the 6th inst. The following delegates were present in the convention:—

From the Rhode Island Medical Society, Dr. Joseph Mauran.

From the Geneva Medical College, Dr. James Bryan.

From the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York, Messrs. John Milhau and George D. Coggeshall.

From the Medical Society of New Jersey, Drs. Lewis Condict and Wm. A. Newell.

From the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Drs. Joseph Carson, Henry Bond and Francis West.

From the University of Pennsylvania, Drs. George B. Wood and James B. Rogers.

From the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, Dr. Franklin Bache.

From the Medical Faculty of the Pennsylvania College, Dr. H. S. Patterson.

From the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, Dr. Clinton G. Stees.

From the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, Messrs. D. B. Smith, Charles Elles and Wm. Procter, Jr.

From the Medical Society of Delaware, Drs. Isaac Jump and J. W. Thomson.

From the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland, Drs. David Stewart and Joshua I. Cohen.

From the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, Drs. J. C. Hall and Harvey Lindsly.

From the National Medical College of the District of Columbia, Drs. Joshua Riley, Thomas Miller and Edward Foreman.

From the Medical Department of the National Institute, D. C., Drs. James Wynne and S. D. Gale.

From the Georgetown Medical College, Dr. F. Howard.

And from the Rush Medical College, Illinois, Dr. G. N. Fitch.

The credentials of delegates from the New Hampshire Medical Institution, the University of Buffalo, the Medical Department of Hampden Sidney College, the Medical Society of South Carolina, the Medical College of Ohio, the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, the Missouri Medical Society, and the Medical Faculty of the University of Iowa, were presented by the Vice President of the Convention of 1840; but these delegates did not make their appearance during the session of the convention.

A temporary organization was effected by calling Dr. Lewis Condict, President of the convention of 1840, to the chair, and appointing Dr. Harvey Lindsly, Secretary. A committee of five was then appointed, consisting of Drs. Bache, Mauran, Thomson, Miller, and Mr. Coggeshall, to nominate the permanent officers of the convention, with instructions to name two Vice Presidents, instead of one, as had been the custom on former occasions. This committee retired, and, after a short consultation, reported the names of the following delegates, viz.:

For President, Dr. George B. Wood, of Pennsylvania.

For Vice Presidents, Dr. Joseph Mauran of Rhode Island, and Dr. D. Y. Simons of South Carolina.

For Secretary, Dr. Harvey Lindsly, of the District of Columbia; and for Assistant Secretary, Dr. Edward Foreman, of the same place.

The nominations were confirmed by the convention, and the President took the chair.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Surgeon-General of the Army, the Chief of the Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and such of the members of the two Houses of Congress as might be medical graduates, should be invited to take seats in the convention, and participate in its proceedings.

In conformity with the directions of the preceding convention, the committee of revision and publication, appointed by that body, presented a report of their proceedings, which was accepted.

The delegates of the several medical bodies represented in the convention were then called on for contributions towards the revision of the Pharmacopœia; when reports were handed in from the delegates of the Rhode Island Medical Society, from the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York, from the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and from the Medical and

Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. These reports were referred to a committee, consisting of Dr. Bond, Dr. Mauran, Dr. Cohen, Dr. Miller, and Mr. Milhau, with directions to report a plan for the revision and publication of the Pharmacopœia; after which the convention adjourned to the following day.

At the next meeting, on Tuesday morning, a committee was appointed to examine the accounts and vouchers presented by the committee of revision and publication of the preceding convention, and reported that they had found them correct.

Dr. Bond, from the committee to which had been referred the reports from various medical bodies represented in the convention, reported the following resolutions:

1. That a committee of revision and publication, consisting of nine members, be appointed, to which shall be referred all communications offered to the convention in relation to the revision of the Pharmacopœia, and that three of this committee shall form a quorum.

2. That the committee shall meet in the city of Philadelphia, and be convened as soon as practicable by the chairman.

3. That said committee shall be authorized to publish the work after its revision, and to take all other measures which may be necessary to carry out the views and intentions of the convention.

4. That the committee shall have power to fill its own vacancies.

5. That, after the completion of its labors, the committee shall submit a report of its proceedings to the Secretary of this convention, to be laid before the next convention.

These resolutions were adopted, and the following delegates appointed on the committee, viz., Dr. Franklin Bache, Dr. Joseph Carson, and Mr. William Procter, Jr., of Philadelphia; Dr. Joseph Mauran, of Providence, R. I.; Mr. John Milhau, of the city of New York; Dr. J. W. Thomson, of Wilmington, Delaware; Dr. David Stewart, of Baltimore; Dr. Joshua Riley, of the District of Columbia; and Dr. G. N. Fitch, of Logansport, Indiana.

It was resolved that the President of the convention be added to the above committee, and serve as its chairman.

In reference to the manner of calling, and the mode of constituting the next decennial convention, to meet in the year 1860, it was

Resolved, That the regulations in reference to the present convention, adopted by that of the year 1840, and published in the last edition of the Pharmacopœia, should be adopted, with the necessary modifications in relation to the dates; the day of meeting being changed from the first Monday to the first Wednesday in May.

A letter was read inviting the members of the convention to a dinner, to be given at the National Hotel, by the medical gentlemen of Washington and Georgetown. The invitation was accepted, and the thanks of the convention voted to the gentlemen referred to for their hospitality.

The thanks of the convention were also unanimously voted to Dr. Lewis Condict, President of the last convention, for valuable services; and to the Board of Aldermen, of the city of Washington, for their courtesy in offering their hall for the sittings of the convention.

The convention then adjourned.

After its adjournment, Dr. William B. Chapman, one of the delegates from the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, arriving in Washington, stated to the Secretary his concurrence in the proceedings of the convention.

Harvey Lindsly, M.D.,
Washington, May 9th, 1850. *Secretary of the Convention.*

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MAY 22, 1850.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Chester—Wales.—In travelling over Europe, there are other objects besides hospitals and infirmaries for a medical man to examine. Instead of burthening a note-book with statistics of such institutions, exclusively, those objects of interest will first be referred to which all professional gentlemen would certainly wish to visit as sources of historical information. To pass through the most extraordinary sections of England, Ireland and Scotland, for example, regardless of the monuments of past ages, and only be influenced by the single thought of attending upon morning and evening cliniques, would be a poor compensation for the expense and fatigues of a transatlantic voyage.

After recruiting a day or two at Liverpool, when an American arrives at that port, and having examined the public edifices, charities, the park, and the magnificent works of art to facilitate commerce, without neglecting the estate of Lord Derby, eight miles distant, containing a zoological collection of immense cost, Chester, sixteen miles from Liverpool, should by no means be omitted. It was a Roman garrison, and the original walls still surround the town. It is believed to be the only walled city in the kingdom. On the top is a broad flagged walk, enabling the pedestrian not only to view the general arrangements of the dwellings, but a charming view is also opened up and down the river Dee. The mountains of Shropshire and those of Wales are near enough to produce a grand effect. A singular, and certainly a very strange plan of protecting people in the streets, exists in Chester. Every few rods, on either side of the main streets, are narrow stairs, which reach to the second story of the buildings, where is a perfect path leading from one end of a street to another, passing directly through every house. Shops abound the whole distance on one side of this path; on looking down, on the other side, is the paved street. The castle, erected on the foundation of the Roman works, was built in the time of William the Conqueror. Of all the architectural remains, those of St. John's Church, without the walls, built by Ethelred, are the most extraordinary. There stands the massive tower of vast strength, but slowly crumbling into dust, which dates back to A. D. 689! yet the proportion, the grandeur of the design, the nicety of the sculpture, and the imposing character of the stupendous gothic arches, give the spectator reason to believe that man, at that epoch, was not deficient in those powers which some imagine to be peculiar to the present intellectual age. A round brick tower is still in excellent condition, on which Charles I. stood and witnessed the overthrow of his army by the Parliamentary forces.

Many ancient burial places, now covered over by warehouses, are pointed out to strangers. Very antique structures, once inhabited by monks and friars, are not to be overlooked in Chester—which is a perfect museum of curiosities. Eaton Hall, the magnificent residence of the Marquis of Westminster, is about three miles distant. A drive of two miles, through the grounds and park, is necessary to inspect the turreted chain of costly apartments occupied by the proprietor.

From Chester, the medical tourist would find it pleasant and profitable to go to Llangollin, in North Wales. For wildness of mountain scenery, there is no equal to it out of Switzerland. Perched on the summit of a conical mountain of immense height, are the spacious ruins of the castle of Caer Dinas Brau, of such extreme antiquity, that the period of its erection cannot be determined. Close by is the site of the palace of that Napoleon of of his time, Owen Glendower. There, too, is a little patch of trees that marks the very spot where his Welsh parliament defied the English kings. Valley Crusis Abbey, in the full majesty of mural desolation, that rose into being in the year 1200, is still there, with the outlines of that splendor which once characterized the richly-ornamented edifice, then the habitation of a community of lazy, tyrannical, all-grasping order of monks. An old parish church, so old that no record refers to its origin, stands in the village of Llangollin, almost entirely finished in the interior, with mouldings and figures of angels carved in oak, in various postures, that were originally in Valley Crusis Abbey. The pews have the names of the owners on the door. Some are on large brass plates. Finally, Offa's Dyke, a monstrous ditch, running over hill and dale, to mark the boundary between those quarrelsome, depredating enemies, the English and Welsh people, is well defined between Llangollin and Check Castle. Trevor Hall and Wynnstay Castle may each be examined by asking. These places are surrounded by domains of some miles square, without a fruit tree of any kind or a cultivated patch of ground.

Straits of Menai.—Works of art, modern, and stupendous beyond all others on the globe, are concentrated at a narrow strip of water, dividing Wales from the rough, uninviting Isle of Anglesea, two miles from Bangor, a cheerless, besmoked town, where a rail road peeps out through a succession of tunnels, of fearful length, having the weight of mountains resting on their damp, cold arches. To reach the island without impeding navigation—government requiring that masts of ships should not be obstructed—a chain bridge was thrown across. It was commenced in 1819, and completed in 1826. The main opening or clear span, is 560 feet, between the points of suspension; 30 feet wide, and 100 feet above the water. America possesses no parallel to this triumph of art. Wire bridges appear like trifles, compared with this unequalled exhibition of human ingenuity. One mile further, is the *tubular bridge*, a description of the raising of which not long since appeared in that valuable periodical, the Living Age. Think of running a train of cars, led off by a gigantic locomotive, through a monstrous iron tube, spanning a wild, foaming rush of waters, which unites the Irish Sea with St. George's Channel, at a speed scarcely suspected in New England, and at an elevation of 100 feet above the water below ! The camels and other colossal apparatus by which this tube was raised to its present bed, are near at hand. Thus far the cost has been seven hundred thousand pounds ! But it is far from being completed. A second tube is lying by the side of the first, soon to be ready for a second track of rails. On the termini, both sides the strait, the abutments are surmounted by a pair of terrible stone lions, 24 feet long, 9 feet 8 inches across the breast, and, although represented at repose and lying down, 8 feet to the top of their backs.

Egyptian Mummies.—Mr. Gliddon, the Eastern traveller, and who has delivered many lectures upon the manners and customs of the Egyptians, has succeeded, after several trials, in obtaining two specimens of that ancient race, and proposes to have the coffins, in which they were found, opened in this city, if sufficient funds can be raised to remunerate him for the great outlay incurred. One of them, who lived 1200 years B. C., say 3200 years ago, was the daughter of the high priest of Thebes, and is supposed to have jewels, &c. about her person, as was the custom of that singular and ancient race of people. The art of embalming the dead is generally thought to have been lost, or entirely forgotten; but we are of opinion, that, should it become necessary, or a custom, proper means can *now* be had, whereby bodies could be preserved for an indefinite length of time, and entirely resist decomposition. As the subject is interesting to medical men, their encouragement should be given to such an exhibition; and as Mr. Gliddon contemplates to give, at the opening, a lecture on mummification, it will be instructive as well as interesting.

Apothecaries.—It is well known to every physician, that much of the efficacy of medicines and chemicals depends upon the accuracy with which they are compounded, as well as the carefulness with which they are dispensed. It is the peculiar province of the apothecary to attend to these duties; it is his function; and when properly fulfilled, the confidence of the profession is merited. In Boston we have many good apothecaries, those who make it their endeavor to obtain their medicines of the best quality and purity, without regard to cost, and are careful in dispensing them. Among them may be mentioned Mr. Wm. Brown, corner of Washington and Eliot streets, whose store is fitted up in a style truly elegant; having all the modern appliances for a pharmaceutist, and the successfully carrying on of the apothecary and drug business generally. His samples of drugs and chemicals, which we have lately had an opportunity of examining, are certainly among the most beautiful specimens we have seen, and upon their purity reliance can be placed.

Physicians and Apothecaries.—At the late meeting of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, among the many resolutions offered we find the following:—"Whereas, it is asserted and confidently believed, by a portion of the public, that it is the practice of some physicians and apothecaries to enter into a collusive arrangement, by which the former are to receive a per centage upon all prescriptions sent to the latter, and in this way bring dishonor upon the medical profession; therefore, Resolved, That this society regards all collusion between physicians and apothecaries, whether with a view to pecuniary profit or patronage, as opposed to every principle of that moral code which the profession have adopted; and that no physician, known to be guilty of such a collusion, should be entitled to the confidence and professional intercourse of medical men."

Meeting of the American Medical Association at Cincinnati.—Pursuant to previous arrangements, the Association met at Cincinnati on the 7th inst. There were quite a large number of delegates present, some 300, but not so many as there were at the last meeting in Boston. The Address by the President, Dr. J. C. Warren, of this city, is spoken of in a highly complimentary manner, and was listened to with the greatest attention. A committee was appointed to make nominations for the year, which resulted as follows.

For President—Dr. R. D. Mussey, of Cincinnati. *For Vice Presidents*—1st. Dr J. B. Johnson, of Mo.; 2d. Dr. A. Lopez, of Ala.; 3d. Dr. Daniel Brainard, of Ill.; 4th. Dr. G. W. Norris, of Pa. *For Secretaries*—Dr. Alfred Stillé, of Pa.; Dr. H. Desaussure, of S. Carolina. *For Treasurer*—Dr. Isaac Hays, of Pa.

The report was accepted, but quite an exciting debate arose on its adoption. Motion after motion was made in quick succession, and for a few moments it seemed dubious whether an organization would be accomplished. At last, Dr. L. A. Smith, of N. J., made the motion that the officers nominated by the Committee be considered the officers of the Association for the coming year. This was seconded by Dr. Bowditch, of Boston, and carried by the expedient of the previous question, after a discussion, in which Drs. Storer, Yandell, White, Watson, and others, participated.

Quite a discussion arose as to the propriety of receiving the Report of the Committee on Medical Education, as only two out of the seven members constituting it, were present, and those not having seen the report until the evening previous, and not approving it. Dr. Roby, of Baltimore, was Chairman, and transmitted the report to Dr. Blatchford of N. Y., who declined to present it, and handed it to the Secretary to be read, embodying his own views in two or three resolutions. We shall give further particulars in next week's Journal. The Association are to meet in 1851, in Charleston, South Carolina.

Falling of the Arch of the Foot.—Cases of this troublesome malady often present themselves to the practitioner for treatment, and he is much perplexed in finding means to remedy the defect, by the contrivances which have ordinarily been recommended in such cases. The patients, as a general rule, are of that class who are obliged to labor, to be most of the day on their feet, and who cannot well afford to lose the time that would be necessary to accomplish a cure, by perfect rest. And, further, the apparatus that would be required to support the arch, is expensive and burthensome, both often very objectionable to the patient. To remedy this defect, an admirable contrivance is offered to those who are suffering by such a deviation from the natural form of the foot, that will alike support the arch and give them comfort in locomotion. It is a spring shank, so nicely adjusted to the boot or shoe that it can be worn without any inconvenience; and in fact, being placed between the soles of the boot or shoe, it cannot be detected. As much depends upon the accuracy of the fit and adaptation to the foot, the patient should have the benefit of those who have some knowledge of the anatomy of the parts, and, particularly, who have been in the habit of manufacturing them in similar cases. Mr. John F. Pray, 107 Washington street, is the agent and sole manufacturer of the article alluded to, for this city, and to him we can, from personal knowledge, recommend our professional brethren, whenever they have cases of a similar nature to deal with.

"*Chloride of Zinc*—Its economic and sanitary relations; with testimonials to its preventing decay, rot, mildew and combustion, in wood, canvass, cordage, cotton, woollen, &c., and its deodorizing and purifying foul holds, cellars, hospital wards, sick chambers, sinks, cess-pools, vaults, cabinet and chamber vessels. Lowell, 1850." This is a pamphlet of seventy pages, embracing reports, and letters recommendatory of the antiseptic properties of the chloride. The chloride of zinc has, for a numbers of years, stood every test to which the most rigid experimenters have subjected it. It has been found perfectly safe, in its application, to health and property, and if only half can be accomplished which is attributed to it, must offer sufficient inducements for all to make use of it. As far as our own immediate observation is concerned, we can unhesitatingly say, that it is infinitely superior, for antiseptic purposes, to any other article we have used. It is to be extensively manufactured by the Roxbury Chemical Company, under the direction of Dr. A. A. Hayes, which is a sufficient guarantee that it may be obtained in its utmost purity. We have not as yet seen their samples, but understand they are ready to supply physicians and others, by leaving their orders with Mr. Burditt, No. 70 State street, Boston.

Dr. Sweetser's Address.—Professor Sweetser's Valedictory Address before the Medical Class of Bowdoin College, has been published, and is of a character to make an impression upon the young graduate or the freshman student. The custom of such parting salutations is fraught with much that is beautiful and good. To kindly and feelingly impart the proper advice and admonitions, to point out the course by which success may be attained, is all needed by the young, and should be properly appreciated. The Doctor, in speaking of experience in the healing art, says, "It is a common and a natural, but a very great error, that the knowledge and skill of a physician bear proportion to the amount of his practice. This, I repeat, is a gross mistake. The truly experienced physician is by no means the one who sees the most patients. The mere seeing things teaches us little or nothing, unless we know what is necessary to be seen, and then the manner in which it should be seen or observed, and then how to reflect or reason on the knowledge acquired from seeing or observing.****** Indeed, I think that the physician who is much crowded with business, is very apt to see his patients in a hurried, and, consequently, superficial manner; is very apt to see patients rather than diseases."

Suffolk District Medical Society.—The Monthly Meeting of this Society takes place on Saturday evening, the 25th inst., at their rooms in the Masonic Temple.

MARRIED,—Wm. E. Coale, M.D., to Miss Katherine S. Oliver, both of this city.—At Guilford, Dr. James S. Murphy to Miss I. L Hart.—At San Diego, Feb. 20, John E. Summers, M.D., U. S. A., to Miss Caroline J. Stuart, of Buffalo, N. Y.—At Utica, N. Y., William G. Wheeler, M.D., of Chelsea, Mass., to Miss Mary C. Williams, of U.—In this city, Dr. P. Pinio to Miss Elizabeth Crosby.

Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Saturday noon, May 18th, 69.—Males, 37—females, 32. Asthma, 1—disease of bowels, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 2—consumption, 12—convulsions, 2—cramp, 1—croup, 1—debility, 1—diarrhœa, 3—dropsy, 3—dropsy of brain, 4—erysipelas, 1—typhus fever, 4—scarlet fever, 2—lung fever, 5—inflammatory fever, 1—hooping cough, 2—infantile diseases, 4—inflammation of the lungs, 3—disease of liver, 1—marasmus, 3—old age, 1—palsy, 1—poison, 1—pleurisy, 1—smallpox, 5—syphilis, 1—unknown, 2.

Under 5 years, 30—between 5 and 20 years, 6—between 20 and 40 years, 15—between 40 and 60 years, 9—over 60 years, 9. Americans, 31; foreigners and children of foreigners, 38.

Medicine a Science and an Art.—"A Lecture, introductory to the course in the Medical Institution of Geneva College. By C. B. Coventry, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics, &c. March, 1850. Published by the Class." Prof. Coventry's address is one which would be likely to chain the attention of an audience for the allotted hour, without their knowledge of its having fled. It is one of those spontaneous effusions of a good heart and a cultivated mind, which are well calculated to impress upon the student the most profound devotion to the science in which he is engaged. The profession of medicine is defined most clearly; and they that would have it, "*ars conjecturalis*," should have heard Dr. C.'s argument to the contrary. The Dr. asks, "Can a science which has its foundation in the immutable laws of nature be termed a conjectural art? Does the husbandman, when he sows his seed, merely guess it will grow? Our knowledge is obtained from the well-known, established and immutable laws of nature, as it regards the propagation, growth or development and nourishment of the animal economy; the recorded experience of others for ages, as to the causes and symptoms of disease, and from personal observation and experience of ourselves. Disease arises from the violation of the laws or conditions of health." "Scarce is the infant enabled to lisp the name of mother, when what is termed education commences. The brain, still imperfectly organized, is stimulated to unnatural exertion by praise and bribery, and often by exciting some of the worst passions of our nature, rivalry and jealousy." The innovation in medicine by empirics, is illustrated in a most correct and happy manner; and were it not for the press of other matter, we would gladly lay the chapter before our readers.

Death of a Child by Sinapisms applied in mistake.—Dr. Ameuille mentioned, at a late meeting of the Société Médico-pratique, of Paris, the case of a little girl, six years of age, who, after an attack of eruptive fever, had swollen glands on each side of the neck. On the right side resolution soon came on, but on the left the swelling increased, and became painful; a linseed poultice was ordered, and a mustard one applied by mistake. The child screamed and complained bitterly, but was obliged to keep on the poultice for three hours; two successive sinapisms were applied after this, and the error was only discovered towards the evening. Frightful suppuration and gangrenous inflammation came on, reaching down to the sternum; the muscles, nerves, and vessels, of the part were laid bare; and the child sunk in spite of the most active and appropriate treatment, after having rallied a little while just before it expired. This may serve as an additional warning even in cases where sinapisms are ordered, and knowingly applied. Some members said that mustard poultices should not be left on children more than ten or twelve minutes. We would say not more than five or six.—*London Lancet.*

Monument to Jenner.—A numerous and influential meeting of the profession took place at 52 Regent street, Quadrant, to devise the best means of proceeding towards the erection of a monument to the memory of the ever illustrious Jenner. Mr. Bond Cabbell, M.P., was in the chair. Several resolutions were passed, and a committee was appointed to carry out the objects of the meeting. Every lover of the profession must rejoice at this effort to do honor to one of the greatest benefactors of our race.—*Ib.*